



July 12, 2010

Dear Kitchen Cabinet members,

In my previous Kitchen Cabinet legislative update I noted how many state workers make more than \$99,000 per year. I want to go into more detail about this issue with you so you can get a sense of where the state could choose to save some money if it desired.

## Some state workers overpaid?



In the June issue of *Building Insight*, the publication from the Building Industry Association of Washington (BIAW), you'll find a list of **42 separate state departments, how many employees in those departments make more than \$99,000 per year and what percent that makes up of the department as a whole.** The information is startling.

For starters, **more than 28,000 state workers total make more than \$99,000** in total compensation including benefits. Also, the governor hired more than 6,000 new state employees in her first years as governor and state worker pay and benefits make up 60% of the state's total spending. The BIAW feels that perhaps **reducing the number of state workers would be a good place to start saving money before raising your taxes** and I agree with that.

Some of the examples cited in the article are quite astounding as well:

- Did you know there is only one person working at the state **Office of Civil Legal Aid** and he makes almost \$120,000 a year in salary alone?

- In the state **Administrator's Office for the Courts**, there are 296 people making more than \$99,000 per year in pay and benefits, accounting for 81% of that department.
- The state **Office of Financial Management** has 253 people making at least \$99,000 per year, totaling 72% of that department.
- Just off the freeway in Olympia, you can see the new \$300 million building being constructed for the state **Department of Information Services**. When that department moves in, nearly 300 of them will be making more than \$99,000, or 64% of their department.
- The state **Superintendent of Public Instruction's office** has 222 people making over \$99,000 per year. That's just over half the entire department.
- The state **Board of Pilotage Commissioners**, the state **Commission on Asian Pacific-American Affairs**, the state **Economic Development Finance Authority**, the state **Commission of African-American Affairs**, and the state **Commission on Hispanic Affairs** are all two-person departments with one of those people making more than \$99,000 per year in total compensation.



As I said in the last update, most of the rank and file employees around the state make much less than this, but as you can see there are some major exceptions which need to be addressed.

In this Kitchen Cabinet update, you've gotten a good overview of the bigger picture. **Beginning with the next update I send out a week from Monday, I'll focus on the top ten earners in a specific area of state government to highlight government over-employment and overcompensation.** We'll take a look at who's making the most money and where cuts could be considered to save taxpayer dollars.

You can find all the information about state employee salaries on the website for the [Office of Financial Management](#).

## In closing...

If you know someone in our district who might be interested in receiving these updates, please feel free to forward this e-mail to him or her.

You can always find information online by visiting my website at  
[www.SenateRepublicans.wa.gov/Carrell](http://www.SenateRepublicans.wa.gov/Carrell).

As always, if you'd like to contact me you can write, phone, e-mail, or stop by. My office phone number is (360) 786-7654, and my home phone number is (253) 581-2859. Or you can write me at **102 Irv Newhouse Building, P.O. Box 40428, Olympia, WA 98504-0428.**



- Legislative E-mail address: [carrell.mike@leg.wa.gov](mailto:carrell.mike@leg.wa.gov)
- Home E-mail address: [mcarrell@hotmail.com](mailto:mcarrell@hotmail.com)

Sincerely,

Mike Carrell

28<sup>th</sup> District State Senator